

Recreation Commission Meeting

October 27, 2015

Hunt Recreation Center

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Recreation Commission was held at the Hunt Recreation Center on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Susanne Jarnryd, Paul Grasso, and Peter Ward. Also present were Acting Recreation Director, Pamela Higgins, Acting Assistant Recreation Director, Jon Straggas, and Recreation Programs and Events Manager, Zachary Vaillette. The meeting was recorded and a sign was posted stating that it was recorded.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Jarnryd at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Jarnryd asked for a review of the minutes from September 22, 2015. An amendment was made as the water fountain proposal was voted unanimously in favor of support for the project. The minutes were moved to acceptance as amended by Mr. Grasso and seconded by Mr. Ward. The commission asked if meeting minutes of the previous meetings could be sent prior to the next meeting for review.

Operations Report

Programs Update

Pam Higgins reported:

- Summer 2015 was comparable to the summer of 2014. Revenue was comparably lower as were expenses. Total enrollment was 2,924. The amount of scholarship support was higher than in 2014. However money from the golf tournament had been encumbered for use for the next few years. The Arts and Recs camp helped to boost the camp revenues as it had one of the largest net revenue since its expenses are minimal.
- There are scholarship funds in Danner DeStephano's name. Jeff Adams, who was instrumental in asking for donations for the scholarship fund, would like to set the account up so that scholarships money is given each year from the earned interest, thus creating an annual scholarship for camp. The money is currently in a gift account and would have to be moved into an interest bearing account. This will require a discussion with Tony Logalbo, Town Treasurer.
- The fee for summer camp will change moving forward. Goal is to make camp more affordable for Concord residents. Therefore changes will be made in management and staffing cost, as well as the structure of the camp.
- Summer boys' basketball clinic had a phenomenal year with participation being up compared to the last several years.
- Workrecreation had 197 participants and was very successful. This program allows middle school students to learn work skills while still being considered a camper.
- Family swim saw a boost in enrollment with 55 families. Unfortunately, the program lost \$2,909 due to high maintenance and staffing costs. Program is a staple of the community, providing an inexpensive swim option for residents. It will continue to be offered for the enjoyment of the public.
- The Yoga program had an increase in numbers.
- Minuteman Classic was well attended this year. T.J. did a good job organizing the race.
- The 2015 summer was successful even with all the redirection of the recreation department. The department's new organizational chart was presented. The structure covers the three major divisions of the department-The Beede Center, Recreation Programs and Events, & Childcare Services.

Program Update

Program and Events Manager-Zachary Vaillette reported:

- Registration for both the 2015/2016 ski and snowboard programs is now underway. The basketball registration for boys and girls, grades 1 through 8 is now open as well. Registrations so far for each have been successful.
- Concord Recreation will offer three new camps this summer through Skyhawk Sports, a third party company that has offered safe sports camps for over thirty years. These three camps will be Mini-Hawk Sports, Multisport, and Volleyball Camps.
- Summer Camp programs will go through modifications as the Recreation Department looks to revamp the day to day structure of the camp. Vacation Camps will take place November 5th as well on February and April vacations. This month's trip will be to the educational Einstein's Workshop where students will learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- The department is in the process of developing new programs to offer in the near future. Some ideas on the table include an adult co-ed softball league, a lacrosse camp, a golf program, toddler programs, a bubble soccer program, teen programs, to name a few.

Trunk or Treat Report

Zachary Vaillette reported:

- The Recreation Department's first annual Trunk or Treat took place on October 24th beginning at 5:30pm. This event took place at the municipal lot on Keyes road. Twenty nine cars attended the event. The cars were decorated and candy was passed out to the children in attendance. It was a safe way for children to enjoy the holiday and go trick or treating. The Department will run the event next October.

New Events

Zachary Vaillette reported:

- Recreation looks to add more events for the community as requested by the Town Manager Christopher Whelan.
- Game Night will commence on November 6th at the Hunt Recreation Center. Our first annual Thanksgiving Food Drive will run from November 9th through the 24th. All items will be donated to Concord Open Table to help local families that are in need. Winter events include Parents Night Out on December 18th, Winter Wonderland January 23rd, 8th Grade Valentine's Day Dance on February 6th, and The Shamrock Ball on March 12th. Raffles will also be held for winter events. These include the first Ice-out Event and our Red Heart Raffle.

Beede Center Report

Jon Straggas Reported:

- Beede had 154 membership renewals this year compared to 133 renewals in 2014.
- There were also 50 new memberships. The staff is brainstorming new ways to advertise and market for Beede Center. The 10th anniversary of the center will be celebrated next April. Programs are going well. Aquatics Division is looking to hire a fulltime lifeguard/instructor. Otters swim team is going well with very high enrollment numbers, 180 participants this year. All programs are running well.

Old Business

Beede Capital Project Update

Jon Straggas Reported:

- The Beede Center has been able to fix existing problems in the condensing unit and the second air handling unit. The project will be closed after the replacement of a domestic hot water heater that was damaged by an unrelated to the problem. We hope the project will be closed out by the end of the year. Overall the project was a success improving the air quality and consistency of hot water.
- The next project will be replacing the light fixtures on the exterior of the Beede Center. This will be done in unison with the new high school fixtures.

Update on Rideout Project

Zach Vaillette reported:

- The Town of Concord will hold a public hearing **Monday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Town House Public Hearing Room, 22 Monument Square, to discuss options, progress and goals relating to the active recreation property located on Lawsbrook Road in Concord.

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., a design, construction, and maintenance corporation, with offices located throughout the Northeast was hired by the Town to spearhead a Master Plan and conceptual design plan for integrating the 51 Lawsbrook Road parcel to the existing Rideout Recreation property.

Their Engineers have taken time to assess the property's existing amenities and parking. At the hearing, representatives from Weston and Sampson plan to present a *current conditions* report as well as several conceptual designs, ideas, and options for the usage of the areas. The Town wants to gather citizen input for the project.

Scoreboard

Pam Higgins reported:

- A local Girl Scout is looking to erect a scoreboard at Emerson Field. Issue is where the maintenance money will come from. We have received the okay to do the project and it will be revisited in the spring.

New Business

Pam Higgins reported:

- Efforts have been made to provide benefits for afterschool teachers. The policy will be updated and presented to the personnel board. This will allow teachers to have modified leave benefits.

The meeting was moved to adjournment at 9:19 pm by Mr. Ward, which was seconded Mr. Grasso.